

SMALLER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES

TORQUAY

The Centre and relationship with other Haemophilia Centres

1. The Haemophilia Centre at the Torbay Hospital, Torquay and was designated as centre number 17 around 1976/1977.¹ It was part of the South Western Regional Health Authority and the Oxford Supraregion of haemophilia centres.²
2. The Centre's Director from the time it was designated at 1990 was Dr Barrie Murphy.³
3. As well as being part of the Oxford Supraregion, there is some evidence that the Torquay Centre had a relationship with the haemophilia centre at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital: Dr Murphy was represented by Dr Edgcumbe of that centre at a 19 June 1978 meeting of Haemophilia Centre Directors within the Oxford Haemophilia Supraregion⁴, as well as the 20 - 21 November 1979 UKHCDO meeting.⁵

Number of patients treated

4. The available annual returns record the following patient numbers to 1985:
 - a. 1977: the Centre treated 13 haemophilia A patients and 3 haemophilia B patients.⁶
 - b. 1979: the Centre treated 15 haemophilia A patients and 1 haemophilia B patient.⁷
 - c. 1980: the Centre treated 7 patients with haemophilia A and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.⁸

¹ CBLA0000699

² CBLA0000699 and HCDO0000138_012.

³ See the annual returns referred to below and HCDO0002421.

⁴ OXUH0003752_005

⁵ BPLL0007384

⁶ HCDO0001212

⁷ HCDO0001379

⁸ HCDO0001477

- d. 1981: the Centre treated 10 patients with haemophilia A, 1 haemophilia A carrier, 2 haemophilia B patients and 2 patients with von Willebrand's disease.⁹
- e. 1982: the Centre treated 11 patients with haemophilia A and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.¹⁰
- f. 1983: the Centre treated 10 patients with haemophilia A and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.¹¹
- g. 1984: the Centre treated 11 patients with haemophilia A, 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease and 1 patient with haemophilia B.¹²
- h. 1985: the Centre treated 9 patients with haemophilia A, 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease and 1 patient with haemophilia B.¹³

Blood product usage and treatment policies

- 5. In 1977, the Centre treated its haemophilia A patients with cryoprecipitate (365 packs), NHS concentrate (61,075 units), and commercial concentrate (Factorate) (19,765 units).¹⁴
- 6. In 1979, the Centre treated its haemophilia A patients with NHS concentrate (119, 770 units), commercial concentrate (Factorate) (9,074 units) and cryoprecipitate (3,540 units).¹⁵
- 7. In 1980, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁶
 - a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with NHS concentrate (103,835 units of which, 56,525 units used at hospital and 47,310 units used for home treatment) and commercial concentrate (Kryobulin) (17,880 units, of which 15,276 units were in hospital and 2,604 units used at home).

⁹ HCDO0001581

¹⁰ HCDO0001676

¹¹ HCDO0001773

¹² HCDO0001867

¹³ HCDO0001962

¹⁴ HCDO0001212

¹⁵ HCDO0001379

¹⁶ HCDO0001477

- b. The patient with von Willebrand's disease was treated with cryoprecipitate in hospital.

8. In 1981, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁷

- a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with NHS concentrate (91,205 units, of which 31,635 units were in hospital and 59,570 units were at home), commercial concentrate (Kryobulin) (2,496 units, of which 1,997 units were used in hospital and 499 units at home) and cryoprecipitate (1,520 units in hospital).
- b. The haemophilia A carrier was treated with NHS concentrate in hospital.
- c. A haemophilia A patient with Factor VIII antibodies was treated with NHS concentrate and commercial concentrate (Kryobulin) in hospital.

9. In 1982, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁸

- a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with NHS concentrate (139,821 units, of which 81,026 units in and 58,795 units at home), commercial concentrate (Kryobulin) (6,348 units in hospital).
- b. Haemophilia A patients with Factor VIII antibodies were treated with NHS concentrate, commercial concentrate (Kryobulin) and FEIBA in hospital.
- c. A patient with von Willebrand's disease was treated with cryoprecipitate in hospital.

10. In 1983, the Torbay Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁹

- a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with NHS concentrate (114,940 units, of which 49,775 units were in hospital and 65,165 units at home), commercial concentrate (Kryobulin and Factorate) (11,621 units in hospital) and cryoprecipitate (1890 units at the hospital)
- b. A haemophilia A patient with Factor VIII antibodies was treated with NHS concentrate and commercial concentrate (Factorate and Kryobulin) in hospital.

¹⁷ HCDO0001581

¹⁸ HCDO0001676

¹⁹ HCDO0001773

- c. The von Willebrand's patient was treated with cryoprecipitate, NHS concentrate and plasma.

11. In 1984, the Centre treated its patients as follows:²⁰

- a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with NHS concentrate (186,254 units, of which 108,630 units were in hospital and 77,624 units at home) and cryoprecipitate (20,700 units at the hospital).
- b. The von Willebrand's patient was treated with cryoprecipitate in hospital.
- c. A haemophilia A patient with Factor VIII antibodies was treated with NHS concentrate in hospital.

12. In 1985, the Centre treated its patients as follows:²¹

- a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with NHS concentrate (118,795 units, of which 63,375 units were in hospital and 55,420 units at home), commercial concentrate (Factorate and Kryobulin) (11,200 units, of which 6,635 units were in hospital and 4,565 at home) and cryoprecipitate (16,960 units in hospital).
- b. The von Willebrand's patient was treated with cryoprecipitate in hospital.
- c. A haemophilia A patient with Factor VIII antibodies was treated with NHS concentrate in hospital.

13. Throughout the 1977-1985 period, the Centre treated its haemophilia B patients with NHS concentrate.

14. In July 1975, Dr Murphy wrote to Dr Maycock to ask whether a haemophilia A patient travelling to Italy on holiday could be issued freeze-dried Factor VIII concentrate.²² Dr Murphy explained that he felt that the patient – a young man who had required cryoprecipitate for around 6 or 7 episodes per year – deserved “*to be able to take freeze dried Factor VIII with him should he get into trouble while on holiday*”. He asked whether Dr Maycock considered that this scenario justified “*issuing freeze dried Factor VIII from your stocks, or should this question be resolved*”

²⁰ HCDO0001867

²¹ HCDO0001962

²² BPLL0003766

by purchasing commercial material if I feel it is justified?”. Dr Maycock explained that his supplies of concentrate were “*fully committed*” and advised that the patient consult the Haemophilia Society about haemophilia centres in Italy (as well as look into reciprocal health service arrangements in EEC countries).²³

15. An undated document records that Dr Murphy received heat-treated BPL Factor VIII concentrate on a named-patient basis.²⁴

Knowledge of risk of hepatitis/AIDS and HTLV-III

16. Dr Murphy attended UKHCDO meetings on 13 January 1977²⁵ and 13 November 1978.²⁶ Dr Murphy was represented by Dr Edgcumbe (of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital) at the 20 - 21 November 1979 UKHCDO meeting.²⁷
17. In the 1980s, apologies for absence were received from Dr Murphy for UKHCDO meetings on 13 September 1982²⁸, 17 October 1983²⁹, 17 March 1986³⁰, 9 October 1986³¹, 29 September 1988³² and 9 October 1989³³. It may be reasonable to assume that as Director of the Torbay Centre, Dr Murphy would have received copies of the reports circulated for, and the minutes of, UKHCDO meetings that he did not attend.

Testing for HIV/HCV and numbers of patients infected

18. Data available to the Inquiry suggests that 6 patients were tested for HIV in 1985 and two found to be positive, and that 8 patients were tested in 1986 and that all were negative.³⁴

²³ BPLL0003765

²⁴ CBLA0002292

²⁵ PRSE0002268

²⁶ HSOC0010549

²⁷ BPLL0007384

²⁸ CBLA0001619

²⁹ PRSE0004440

³⁰ PRSE0001688

³¹ PRSE0004317

³² BART0002329

³³ HCDO0000015_035

³⁴ WITN3826020

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